

Media, PA— Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) is pleased by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to reevaluate its Trichloroethylene (TCE) standards and, in particular, reconsider the risk assessment that the EPA used to permit two manufacturers of his District to grant a higher exemption for TCE emissions than allowable by law. This was only following Joe's request to the EPA to release the risk assessment they had done to support their decision which had never been made available. The decision comes after efforts by Congressman Sestak and other officials to demand a review of the EPA's new guidelines. — "I am pleased to see that the EPA is finally responding to the serious health and safety risks of TCE air emissions to Collegeville area residents. As I have expressed at Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Hearing on Superior Tube on August 8, it is essential that the EPA reassess its decision to exempt Superior Tube from more stringent TCE standards, and the need greater accountability to ensure that this does not happen again." said Congressman Joe Sestak.

The EPA announced that it will undertake reconsideration proceedings, requiring that the Agency to draft and issue a notice of proposed rulemaking for publication in the Federal Register, to hold a public hearing, to take public comment on the proposed decision and to reexamine important scientific issues and review technical material and documents.

Back in May, Congressman Sestak spoke directly to EPA officials and participated in a conference call with the Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, the EPA Air Quality Division, and the Region III Congressional Liaison on the April 17 regulation. Joe specifically commented that the risk assessment done by EPA was not available and requested a copy of it. Following this, he sent a letter to EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson expressing his concern that the EPA decision did not to take action on TCE air emissions, and he asked that the EPA change its approach in the regulation of the toxic pollutant and revisit the exemption for narrow tube manufacturers, and has been in constant contact with the EPA on a regular basis since then.

On July 10, 2,400 pounds of toxic TCE gas escaped into the air from the Superior Tube plant in Collegeville in a two hour time frame, 60 times more than allowable by law. Not only did Superior Tube release far more TCE than allowed by law, but violated the reporting requirement by waiting 19 hours and then under-representing the figure by 2,300 pounds. Joe also spoke to the EPA on their toxic release, emphasizing the health impact on our residents due to TCE.

Congressman Sestak has also spoken with other Congressional members--including Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Rep. Hilda Solis (D-CA)--on introducing legislation to ensure greater accountability to TCE gas emissions at the federal level. The legislation is presently

under draft.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.